

**All people have inherent dignity because everyone is created in the image of God. Our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender family members, neighbors and co-workers deserve equal rights, and to live without fear or discrimination.**

This is too often not the case. In many states, LGBTQ people can still legally be denied housing and job opportunities simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBTQ youth are disproportionately at risk for self-harm and targeted for violence. Some leaders have distorted the value of religious liberty to sanction discrimination. As people of faith, we reject any form of “othering” and seek to build an inclusive society. A foundational principle at the heart of all faith traditions is love of neighbor, and the imperative to be in solidarity with those who are excluded.

Elected officials who have the power to shape policies should ensure LGBTQ people are protected from all forms of discrimination. Politicians also should consistently speak out against those who use hateful rhetoric to demean the dignity of LGBTQ people.



**Made in the  
Image of God**

**Respecting  
the Dignity of  
LGBTQ People**

## Questions for Reflection and Candidates

- 1** How can your faith community more fully support the equal dignity of LGBTQ people in your state and local area?
- 2** What are the greatest threats to LGBTQ people in your community and the nation?
- 3** As a candidate, what are your specific plans to ensure that LGBTQ people have equal rights and are treated with dignity?

**What does it mean to love our neighbors as ourselves in a globalized world? The health and future of our country and communities are interconnected to the health and security of other nations. Our fates are bound up in what Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., called “an inescapable network of mutuality.”**

The COVID-19 pandemic is a wakeup call that underscores this reality. Global challenges such as pandemics, climate change, terrorism, the arms trade, and the refugee crisis are not solved by nationalist rhetoric or walls. The next president must address these challenges by putting public health, peace and diplomacy first.

Americans have understandable fears about violence at home and around the world. But many leaders have stoked fear in ways that lead to misplaced priorities and disproportionate funding for the U.S. military budget, which now

accounts for nearly half of the world's total military spending. In contrast, less than 1 percent of the federal budget goes to foreign aid, which includes initiatives to fight the spread of diseases and poverty in developing countries. If we want peace, we must also work for justice here and around the world. When we have billions for F-35 fighter jets but not enough N95 masks for our frontline health care workers and first responders, our moral priorities as a nation are distorted.

America's next president should take concrete steps to end disproportionate funding for weapons of war and re-invest in the global challenges of public health epidemics, climate change and migration. In addition, we must increase peace-building and development aid in vulnerable countries in ways that respond to the root causes of conflict. By pursuing diplomacy and dialogue as key tools in efforts to build global peace and security, the United States can lead with moral legitimacy.



## The Global Common Good

We're All in This Together

### Questions for Reflection and Candidates

- 1 What policies do you think are most important for creating security for your family and community?
- 2 What role should the United States play in the world to help build global peace and security?
- 3 How can your faith community advocate for policies to create a more peaceful world?
- 4 As a candidate, what programs and policies would you prioritize to help build secure communities and a peaceful world?